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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the references set forth below and listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of the cited references are enclosed.

Foreign Patent No.	<u>Country</u>	<u>Dated</u>
DE 33 13 998 A	Germany	12-08-1983
EP 1 156 124 A	Europe	11-21-2001

Foreign Patent No.	Country	<u>Dated</u>
JP 51 035661 A	Japan	03-26-1976
GB 2 079 655 A	United Kingdom	01-27-1982

OTHER DOCUMENTS

DATABASE WPI, Section Ch, Week 197619, Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class J08, AN 1976-35010X, XP002282752.

DATABASE COMPENDEX 'Online! ENGINEERING INFORMATION, INC., NEW YORK, NY, US; ABDULALIYEV Z E ET AL: "Analysis of stresses in tube sheet of heat exchanger by three dimensional models", XP00228251, Database accession no. EIX99254647555, abstract & ASME PET DIV PUBL PD; AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, PETROLEUM DIVISION (PUBLICATION) PD; STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS AND VIBRATION 1999 ASME, FAIRFIELD, NJ, USA, 1999.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited publications are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any publication herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such a publication is prior art. Moreover, the Applicant understands that the Examiner is to make an independent evaluation of the cited information.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate consideration of the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B with initials or other appropriate marks.

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No fees are considered to be due; however, if it is determined that payment of a fee is required, please charge our deposit account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By_

Nicholas J. Tuccillo

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 44,322

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					Art Unit	
		(Use as many sl	heets as	necessary)	Examiner Name	
	Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	6077-0031WOUS

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (# known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
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		DE 3313998A	12-08-1983	Voest Alpine AG		
		EP 1156124A	11-21-2001	KM Europa Metal Aktienges		
		JP 51035661A	03-26-1976	Nippon Alumin Mfg.		
		GB 2079655A	01-27-1982	Connell, John O; Redpath		

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(1)	Art Unit	
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Sheet 2 of 2	Attorney Docket Number	6077-0031WOUS

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Initials*	No. ¹	the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T²		
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